



GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

## Advisory Neighborhood Commission 2E

Representing the communities of Burleith, Georgetown, and Hillandale

3265 S Street, NW • Washington, DC 20007

(202) 724-7098 • anc2e@dc.gov

October 4, 2017

Mr. H. Alan Brangman, Chairman, and Members of the Board  
Old Georgetown Board  
401 F Street NW, Suite 312  
Washington, DC 20001

Dear Chairman Brangman and Members of the Board:

On October 2, 2017 ANC 2E held its regularly scheduled public meeting, which was properly noticed and attended by five commissioners, constituting a quorum. At this meeting the Commission adopted the following positions on matters scheduled for consideration by the Old Georgetown Board on October 5, 2017:

### **With regard to OG 17-367 (HPA 17-641) Sites in Georgetown:**

This concept design is not attached to a specific property or structure. The applicant has included on the Old Georgetown Board application varied properties with varied property owners. The examples on the OGB application list National Park Service property, DC public property, and private land.

ANC 2E will examine, but not limited to, the shape, size, materials, design elements, placement on a property or structure, and impact on the residents and tourists to Georgetown, for each marker for each property once actually submitted to OGB. ANC 2E will hold a public meeting to review each and every OGB submission that corresponds with a specific property that the applicant wishes to affix or place a marker or plaque.

ANC 2E has difficulty with this OGB submission for the above reasons and therefore does not support this concept design.

### **With regard to SMD 2E02 - OG 17-209 (HPA 17-350) 1649 34th Street, NW:**

The applicant is seeking to construct a parking pad in their backyard. While the concept may be straightforward, it will create an unworkable precedent for this neighborhood and the community. If every townhouse on 34th Street NW desires to replicate this idea of intruding into the public right-of-way with bi-fold doors, issues will arise as the existing alley is not designed for this type of traffic. Therefore, the new usage this concept design is presenting will, without doubt, destroy the historic alleyscape and impair the viewshed from the Dent Place NW

#### COMMISSIONERS:

Ed Solomon, District 1    Joe Gibbons, District 2    Rick Murphy, District 3  
Mara Goldman, District 4    Lisa Palmer, District 5    Jim Wilcox, District 6  
Monica Roaché, District 7    Zac Schroepfer, District 8

walkway. The concept design of bi-fold doors in of themselves should be rejected as a design element. There is no historic basis for bi-fold doors as they look like very large closet doors stuck on a fence.

In addition, the project architect has said that a tree with a trunk of about 10 inches in diameter at the back of the property is to be removed. According to the drawings, there are no plans to replace the tree, which means the neighborhood loses more of its canopy.

Therefore, ANC 2E will not support this concept design.

**With regard to SMD 2E02 - OG 17-210 (HPA 17-351) 1601 Wisconsin Avenue, NW and SMD 2E05 - OG 17-348 (HPA 17-601) 3607 M Street, NW:**

The applicant met with Commissioner Joe Gibbons and Commissioner Lisa Palmer on September 25th at 7:30 pm at the 1601 Wisconsin Avenue NW site. The applicant agreed to reduce, at both locations, the LED red lights to, and maintain, a 2% level. The applicant is deactivating the light sensor that would automatically change the LED red lights' intensity.

The applicant is removing the red "swoosh" and upside-down red "J" near the gas pumps on both submissions. Commissioner Palmer and Commissioner Gibbons are satisfied with the applicant's Old Georgetown Board submissions with these modifications.

ANC 2E supports both permit reviews with the modifications.

**With regard to SMD 2E02 - OG 17-357 (HPA 17-619) 1608 Wisconsin Avenue, NW:**

ANC 2E first requests that this Old Georgetown Board application be reclassified as a concept review. ANC 2E has reached out to the applicant but has unfortunately not been able to meet to discuss the deficiencies in this concept design. ANC 2E finds the sign's large size, use of color, use of icons, use of a solid wood panel to hold the lettering, the hanging "word" attached to the sign, and the sign's placement on the building as severe problems. Furthermore, Commissioner Joe Gibbons now requests that the illegal banners pictured in the OGB application be removed.

ANC 2E does not support this concept design or permit review application.

**With regard to SMD 2E03 - OG 17-372 (HPA 17-646) 3149 O Street, NW:**

ANC 2E notes that this is the third iteration of these plans that have been presented to this commission. ANC 2E objected to the first two iterations and objects to this iteration as well.

The first two iterations contemplated the construction of a third-floor deck. ANC 2E objected to both of the first two iterations because, among other things, ANC 2E objects to the construction of third-floor decks to this house, which would be completely inconsistent with the historic fabric of the neighborhood.

The current iteration of the plans appears to contemplate the inclusion of what would effectively be a deck without a railing that would be accessible through the existing doors, which continue in this iteration of the plans. This is unacceptable.

Additionally, the proposed addition that would replace the existing skylight on the east side of the third floor is simply inconsistent with the historic character of the neighborhood and seems to the commission to be unnecessary for the purposes described by the applicant's agent.

**With regard to SMD 2E03 - OG 17-346 (HPA 17-597) 1427 Wisconsin Avenue, NW:**

ANC 2E commends the Christ Child Society Opportunity Shop for the good work it has done in our community and in the wider DC area for many years and notes that the commission values the presence of this shop in our neighborhood. ANC 2E however has concerns about the awning and signage proposals presented to us today.

First, the commission believes that it would be inappropriate to put a blade sign any place below the second story level. Second, it appears to the commission that the logo proposed for the front window of the shop is too large and perhaps violates DC's sign ordinance and we recommend that the applicants revisit that question.

**With regard to SMD 2E05 - OG 17-288 (HPA 17-494) 3040 M Street, NW:**

ANC 2E supports the permit request for 3040 M Street NW.

**With regard to SMD 2E05 - OG 17-352 (HPA 17-608) 1075 Thomas Jefferson Street, NW:**

ANC 2E supports the concept for 1075 Thomas Jefferson Street NW.

**With regard to SMD 2E06 - OG 17-360 (HPA 17-622) 3044 O Street, NW:**

ANC 2E recognizes and understands the applicant's desire to repair or replace the damaged front steps at this property in the style that currently exists.

With regards the applicant's proposal to replace the existing metalwork and railing, ANC 2E recognizes that there is a diversity of styles in Georgetown and that no one style is required. However, there is value in diversity. In this case, the Old Georgetown Board should consider whether any replacement of the front steps and the railing should be made in a manner that conforms to the preexisting condition prior to the time that Mr. Auchincloss owned the property, as detailed in pictures that are attached to the application.

Alternatively, the existing metalwork and railing are very distinctive and also have some historical significance. They appear to have been installed by Hugh D. Auchincloss and his wife Janet, who was the mother of Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis, after Hugh acquired the property in 1962.

The August 22, 2012 issue of the Washingtonian identified this property as one of “5 Georgetown Locations Rich in Kennedy History,” reporting that John Jr. and Caroline Kennedy often came to play there, and that Janet Auchincloss kept the blood-spattered suit that Jackie wore in Dallas in a box in the attic there until it was moved to the National Archives. According to the April 8, 2013 issue of the Washington Business Journal, the property is also listed on the National Register of Historic Places, which may limit any modifications. We ask that the Old Georgetown Board take the property’s listing into consideration and to also address whether the existing metalwork and railing, or at least their very distinctive style, should be retained.

**With regard to SMD 2E07 - OG 17-374 (HPA 17-649) 1619 30th Street, NW:**

ANC 2E appreciates the detail put into this project in order to maintain the historic fabric of the community. ANC 2E has no objection to the proposed project at 1619 30th Street NW.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Joe Gibbons". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Joe Gibbons  
Chair, ANC 2E